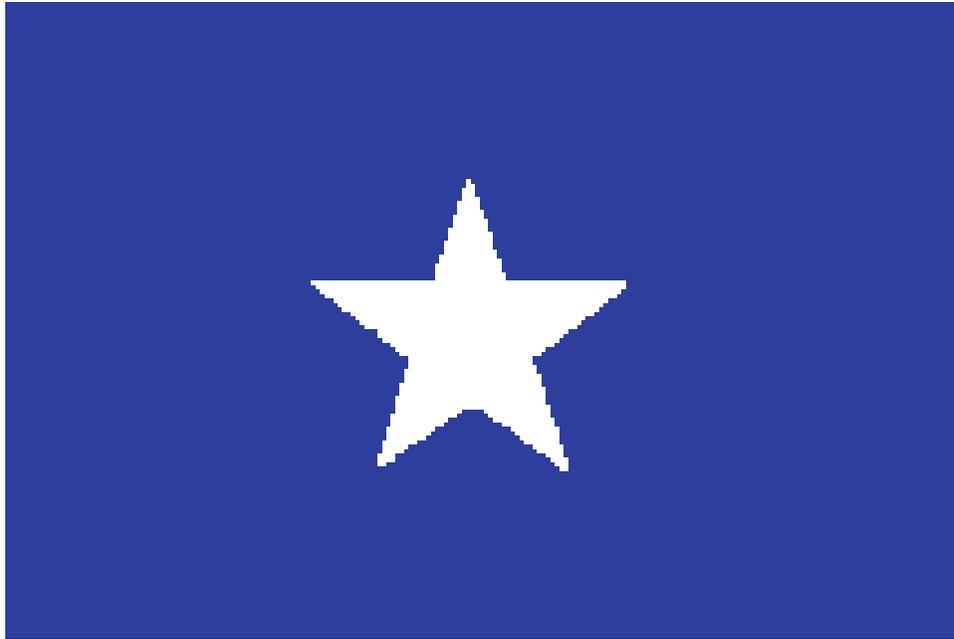




Bonnie Blue Flag



The Lone Star Flag

On January 9, 1861, the Convention of the People of Mississippi adopted an ordinance of Secession. With the announcement of the Ordinance, a large blue flag bearing a single white star was raised over the State Capitol building in Jackson.

Republic of West Florida

The lone star flag was flown by many states, the first recorded use dating to 1810 by the Republic of West Florida. This Republic encompassed the southernmost counties of Mississippi, an area bought by the United States with the Louisiana Purchase, but which became disputed territory when Spain refused to evacuate the area. American settlers who rebelled against the Spanish, driving them east, formed the Republic and applied for U.S. statehood. When President James Madison responded that the area was already

incorporated in the Louisiana Purchase, officials took possession of the area and added it to the Mississippi Territory.

The memory of the West Florida movement lived on in Southern tradition, and the flag became the flag of the Republic of Texas from 1836 to 1839. It would rise again as the flag of the Republic of Mississippi for a few weeks in 1861, and served as the unofficial flag of the Confederacy until replaced by the *'Stars and Bars.'*

The Flag of the People

One of the witnesses to the 1861 flag raising in Jackson was an Irish-born actor named Harry Macarthy. So inspired by the spectacle, he wrote a song, 'The Bonnie Blue Flag,' destined to be the second most popular patriotic song in the Confederacy. When first played in New Orleans before a mixed audience of Texans and Louisianans, it was received with an outburst of approval that was nearly riotous.

The song would spur on the romantic lore of the South, and the Bonnie Blue Flag spread across the nation and into the hearts of the people.

Although never officially adopted by the Confederate government, the flag was readily accepted by the Confederate citizenry. Lone star banners were flown in one form or another in five of the states of the Confederacy which adopted new flags in 1861.

"The Bonnie Blue Flag"

*We are a band of brothers and native to the soil
Fighting for the property we gained by honest toil
And when our rights were threatened, the cry
rose near and far
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a
single star!*

*Hurrah!
Hurrah!
For Southern rights, hurrah!
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a
single star.*

*As long as the Union was faithful to her trust
Like friends and brethren, kind were we, and just
But now, when Northern treachery attempts our
rights to mar
We hoist on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears
a single star.*

*Hurrah!
Hurrah!
For Southern rights, hurrah!
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a
single star.*

*First gallant South Carolina nobly made the
stand
Then came Alabama and took her by the hand
Next, quickly Mississippi, Georgia, and Florida
All raised on high the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears
a single star.*

*Hurrah!
Hurrah!
For Southern rights, hurrah!
Hurrah for the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears a
single star.*

*Ye men of valor gather round the banner of the
right
Texas and fair Louisiana join us in the fight
Davis, our loved President, and Stephens
statesmen are
Now rally round the Bonnie Blue Flag that bears
a single star.*

*And here's to brave Virginia, the Old Dominion
State.
With the young Confederacy at length has linked
her fate.
Impelled by her example, now other States
prepare
To hoist on high the Bonnie Blue flag that bears a
single star.*

*Then here's to our Confederacy, strong we are
and brave,
Like patriots of old we'll fight, our heritage to
save.
And rather than submit to shame, to die we
would prefer
So cheer for the Bonnie Blue flag that bears a
single star.*

*Then cheer, boys, cheer, raise a joyous shout
For Arkansas and North Carolina now have
both gone out;
And let another rousing cheer for Tennessee be
given
The single star of the Bonnie Blue Flag has
grown to be eleven!*

(Two additional verses were added later as new states joined the Confederacy.)